

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN SS-10

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:GTWOHIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL AQABA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 034279

TOSEC 267

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ANKARA NICOSIA BONN ROME

USUN NEW YORK FROM ATHENS 14 FEB 75:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 1265

DEPT PLEASE REPEAT TO THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, IT

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF BITSIOS' TRIPS TO ROME AND BONN

1. A FEW MINUTES AGO, THERE WAS AN OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN BROADCAST OVER ATHENS RADIO STATIONS AS FOLLOWS: "IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT IN VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS YESTERDAY FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS HAS BEEN OBLIGED TO CANCEL HIS TRIPS TO ROME AND BONN AS HE CANNOT BE ABSENT FROM ATHENS."

2. THE NEWS BULLETIN WAS APPARENTLY DELIBERATELY RELEASED TOO LATE FOR AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER EDITIONS IN GREECE AND WILL APPEAR HERE IN PAPERS TOMORROW MORNING.

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3. INTENSE PUBLIC SPECULATION DURING THE COURSE OF THE

DAY UNDOUBTEDLY LED TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT. ONE MAJOR
NEWSPAPER THIS MORNING AND THREE EARLY THIS AFTERNOON
WERE ALREADY CARRYING MAJOR FRONTPAGE SPECULATION AND
STORIES ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS
WOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE ATHENS ON SCHEDULE TOMORROW FOR
HIS FOUR DAY TRIP TO ROME AND BONN.

DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT. KUBISCH UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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